

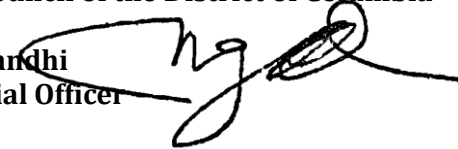
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: October 21, 2013

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Amendment Act of 2013”

REFERENCE: Bill 20-116 – Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 16, 2013

This revised fiscal impact statement incorporates the changes made to the bill in the Committee Print, and replaces the fiscal impact statement issued on September 23, 2013.

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2014 through FY 2017 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill expands the authority of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) and the Director of Government Ethics (DGE) to issue advisory opinions as they deem necessary on areas under BEGA purview. Currently, BEGA requires a referral from a public official or employee in order to issue an opinion.¹ Prior to issuing an opinion, BEGA must publish the proposed opinion in the District of Columbia Register, and provide a public comment period of 30 days. An aggrieved employee or public official may appeal the opinion to BEGA.

Additionally, the bill expands the types of civil penalties² that may be imposed by BEGA for Code of Conduct violations. New potential penalties include: remedial action under the Merit Personnel Act, a public censure, informal admonition by the DGE, probation, and a negotiated disposition of the matter by the DGE.

¹ D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.19(a).

² D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.21(a)(4).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 20-116, "Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Amendment Act of 2013," Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 16, 2013.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2014 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Permitting BEGA to issue opinions on matters not explicitly referred, and expanding potential penalties does not have a fiscal impact.